

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HONG K 00769 200418Z

13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

OMB-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 IO-14 COA-02 EB-11

AID-20 DLOS-06 FEA-02 /190 W
----- 028299

O 200310Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9314

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC

CINCPACFLT

CINCPACAF

COMUSTDC

COMSEVENTHFLT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 769

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY KISSINGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VS, CH

SUBJ: NCNA REPORTS PRC CLASHES WITH SOUTH

VIETNAMESE: ISSUES WARNING

REF: HONG KONG 751

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 HONG K 00769 200418Z

SUMMARY: NCNA (JANUARY 19) REPORTED PRC CLASHES WITH SOUTH VIETNAMESE

IN PARACEL ISLANDS, PREDICTABLY PORTRAYING PRC AS THE INJURED PARTY THAT REACTED IN SELF DEFENSE ONLY AFTER REPEATED SOUTH VIETNAMESE PROVOCATIONS. IT ENDED WITH A WARNING THAT THE "SAIGON AUTHORITIES" WOULD "EAT THEIR OWN BITTER FRUIT" IF THEY DID NOT BACK OFF. NO REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE US. THIS IS THE PRC'S FIRST PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THE DISPUTE SINCE ITS JANUARY 11 FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT RENEWING PRC CLAIMS TO THE ISLANDS. FULL TEXT FOLLOWS: QUOTE

SAIGON AUTHORITIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM BRAZENLY INVADE CHINA'S HSI SHA ISLANDS AND START ARMED CONFLICTS

SINCE JANUARY 15, THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM HAVE BRAZENLY SENT WARSHIPS AND AIRPLANES TO INTRUDE INTO CHINA'S TERRITORIAL WATERS AND AIR SPACE AROUND AND OVER THE HSI SHA ISLANDS, FORCIBLY OCCUPY CHINESE ISLANDS AND OPEN FIRE AT CHINESE FISHERMEN ENGAGED IN PRODUCTION AND CHINESE NAVAL VESSELS ON NORMAL PATROL DUTY. THEY HAVE THUS FLAGRANTLY INFRINGED ON CHINA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY AND MADE FRANTIC PROVOCATIONS AGAINST THE CHINESE PEOPLE.

AROUND 1:00 PM ON JANUARY 15, WARSHIPS SENT BY THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES CARRIED OUT HARASSMENT AND SABOTAGE AGAINST CHINESE FISHING BOAT NO. 402 WHICH WAS ENGAGED IN PRODUCTION NEAR THE KANCHUN ISLAND, SHELLED THE ISLAND FLYING THE NATIONAL FLAG OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND TRIED UNREASONABLY TO MAKE THE CHINESE FISHING BOAT LEAVE CHINA'S OWN WATERS.

AROUND 8:00 AM ON JANUARY 17, TROOPS OF THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES INVADED CHINA'S CHINYIN ISLAND- AT 3:00 PM, OCCUPIED CHINA'S KANCHUAN ISLAND AND BLATANTLY TOOK DOWN CHINA'S NATIONAL FLAG THERE.

ON THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 18, TWO NAVAL VESSELS OF THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES TRUCULENTLY AND UNREASONABLY RAMMED CHINESE FISHING BOATS NO. 402 AND NO. 407, AND WRECKED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 HONG K 00769 200418Z

THE PILOTHOUSE OF THE NO. 407 FISHING BOAT NORTH OF THE LINHYANGCHIAO REEF.

LATER ON, THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES CONTINUED THEIR PROVOCATIONS WITH REDOUBLED EFFORTS IGNORING CHINA'S REPEATED WARNINGS. AROUND 7:00 AM ON JANUARY 19, TROOPS OF THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES ATTEMPTED TO OCCUPY CHINA'S CHENHANG ISLAND. CHINESE FISHERMEN ON THE ISLAND WAGED A RIGHTEOUS STRUGGLE

BY REASONING WITH THEM AND DEMANDED THAT THEY LEAVE CHINA'S TERRITORY. HOWEVER, THE TROOPS FIRED AT CHINESE FISHERMEN, KILLING AND WOUNDING A NUMBER OF THEM. DRIVEN BEYOND THE LIMITS OF FORBEARANCE, THE CHINESE FISHERMEN FOUGHT BACK HEROICALLY AND REPELLED THEIR ATTACK. AT 10:20, NAVAL VESSELS OF THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES OPENED GUN FIRE AT THE CHENHANG ISLAND. AT 10:30, FOUR AIRPLANES OF THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES BOMBED AND STRAFED THE ISLAND. AT THE SAME TIME, NAVAL VESSELS OF THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES FIRED AT CHINESE PATROL VESSELS WHICH WERE FORCED TO STRIKE BACK IN SELF-DEFENCE.

FOR A LONG TIME, THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM HAVE HARBOURED TERRITORIAL DESIGNS ON CHINA'S ISLANDS IN SOUTH CHINA SEA AND ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED SOME ISLANDS OF CHINA'S NANSHA AND HSISHA ISLANDS. IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES MADE A BRAZEN ANNOUNCEMENT INCORPORATING MORE THAN TEN ISLANDS OF CHINA'S NANSHA ISLANDS, INCLUDING NANWEI AND TAIPING, INTO THEIR BOUNDS. THE SPOKESMAN OF THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED A STATEMENT ON JANUARY 11 THIS YEAR STERNLY CONDEMNING THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES' WANTON INFRINGEMENT ON CHINA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY AND REITERATING THAT CHINA HAS INDISPUTABLE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE NANSHA, HSISHA, CHUNGSHA AND TUNGSHA ISLANDS. HOWEVER, IN SPITE OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S REPEATED WARNINGS, THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES SENT ARMED FORCES TO FURTHER ENCROACH UPON CHINA'S TERRITORY AND START ARMED CONFLICTS. SUCH UNSCRUPULOUS PROVOCATIONS BY THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES HAVE AROUSED THE STRONG INDIGNATION OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE. THE CHINESE PEOPLE ARE DETERMINED TO DEFEND THEIR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY. SHOULD THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES BE BENT ON ACTING WILFULLY AND REFUSE TO STOP THEIR ENCROACHMENT UPON CHINA'S TERRITORY IMMEDIATELY, THEY ARE BOUND TO EAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 HONG K 00769 200418Z

THEIR OWN BITTER FRUIT.
END QUOTE
OSBORN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, ISLAND CLAIMS, MILITARY EXERCISES, EXPLORATORY DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HONGK00769
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740129/aaaabbfl.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: HONG KONG 751
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NCNA REPORTS PRC CLASHES WITH SOUTH VIETNAMESE: ISSUES WARNING
TAGS: PFOR, VS, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005